GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1843
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
USE OF COAL IN POWER SECTOR
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the coal intake trend by the coal based Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any potential for increasing use of coal in the power sector;

(d) if so, the main impediments for using coal in production of Power; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (e) : Growth in coal sector is mainly driven by power sector coal consumption and a detailed exercise is carried out by the Planning Commission for estimating the thermal power station-wise coal demand in the beginning of each five year plan and on annual basis and is broadly consistent with the projected growth of the economy. Further, the country`s energy demand estimates are based on the Electric Power SurveyCommittee report of the Central Electricity Authority and going by the trend, about 70%of power generation is coal based. There has been an increasing trend in the coal off-take by the power sector utilities and during the past decade, the average annual compounded growth of coal off-take has been 6.93%. Coal as a principal source of energy is playing a major role in meeting the commercial energy requirements of the country both as primary and secondary source of energy supply. Coal is likely to remain the most suitable and least cost option for the bulk of the country`s energy requirement for the foreseeable future in view of resource endowment, lower specific investment required for coal based thermal generation capacity, lower gestation periods for commissioning the plants when compared to nuclear or hydro and the dependability of fuel supplies and the related energy security net of the country. The main impediment for use of coal in production of power is high ash content in Indian coal and associated environment related problems. To mitigate the adverse effect of coal burning on the environment, emphasis is being laid on clean coal technologies for power generation.